REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification was amended to provide a more accurate testing result. Previously, the molecular weight (Mn) and polydispersity (Mw/Mn) of the polymers were determined by an older less accurate testing method. The proposed subject matter reflects results obtained by a more accurate method of testing and discloses results that more accurately reflect the true nature of the polymers tested. No "new matter" is added. The Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the suggested amendment.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with marking to show changes made."

CLOSURE

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place the above referenced application in condition for allowance and action toward that end is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner identify and further objections, he is invited to contact the undersigned for resolution thereof. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification:

Paragraph 86 on page 27 has been amended as follows:

The graft copolymer PLGA-g-PEG was synthesized by a one-step ring opening polymerization of DL-lactide, glycolide, and epoxy terminated poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG; m.w.=600) using stannous octoate as a catalyst. The DL-lactic acid/glycolic acid/ethylene glycol mole ratio is 3.2/1/2.8, which was determined by H-NMR. Therefore, the grafting frequency of PEG is 4.7% by mole. Therefore, the grafting frequency of PEG is 4.7 % by mole. [The weight average molecular weight (Mw) and polydispersity (Mw/Mn) of the polymers determined by gel permeation chromatography (GPC) relative to polystyrene standards using tetrahydrofuran as an eluting solvent, are 4200 and 1.3, respectively.] Gel permeation chromatography (GPC) using light scattering and refractive index detectors in series can give absolute molecular weight of polymers. (P.J. Wyatt, Anal. Chim. Acta, 1993, 272, 1) GPC shows a unimodal curve. The number average molecular weight (Mn) and polydispersity (Mw/Mn) of the polymers determined by GPC using tetrahydrofuran (THF) as an eluting solvent are 9300 and 1.5, respectively. Therefore, the 4~5 PEGs are grafted on a PLGA backbone.